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tional Baptist Publishing Board, 523  
Second avenue, North, Nashville,  
Tenn.

the error on the facing slip "letter for  
Nashville, Tenn." and sign it H. A.  
Jones, P. C., Nashville and Memphis  
R. P. O., and send it in to the Super-  
intendent of mails. All envelopes  
look alike when a reference slip is  
attached, and are "Respectfully re-  
ferred" to some postal clerk for an ex-  
planation. The argument has been  
well put forth that when an envelope  
or letter is delayed and passes through  
the office, and the delay is not detected  
until the hour of delivery, it is im-  
possible to find out at which end the  
delay was caused. Backstamping is  
a necessity, and indeed is a protection  
not only to the local post office and  
its officials, but to the sender and ad-  
dressee. It takes a great responsi-  
bility off of the local post office, for it  
enables them to advise the patron  
that the letter was received at a cer-  
tain hour and that it was delivered in  
the first mail after receipt of the let-  
ter. The backstamping clerk takes  
oath, like all government employees,  
and swears to perform his or her duty  
within the prescribed laws, so that  
if one is caught moving up or moving  
back the hour of receiving, he or she  
would be accused of destroying govern-  
ment records in a sense, and  
would be subject to removal. The fac-  
ing slip only serves as a check to the  
R. P. O. and the P. C. who is in charge  
of the railroad post office. Hence the  
railway mail service would have to  
bear all of the burdens when it is a  
certain fact that letters are received  
in the various post offices and are not  
delayed in transmission or vice versa.  
For instance if Number 1 who carries  
the East Nashville mail, should be  
given a letter for Number 25, who  
carries the Murphy Addition after  
Number 25 has left the office at 8  
o'clock a. m., this letter would be de-  
layed until the afternoon. If this oc-  
curred on Saturday afternoon, it would  
be held over until Monday morning,  
even if Number 1 did stamp it "W"  
and attach his number to it, there  
would be no way of ascertaining the  
delay unless the backstamping ap-  
peared. The carrier could put forth  
an argument that the letter was de-  
layed in transmission, notwithstanding  
the postmark of Memphis might  
show that it left that post office Fri-  
day noon, and it should have been re-  
ceived Saturday morning. The car-  
rier might say and be justified in his  
claim, that the letter was not received  
by him until Monday morning. So it  
can readily be seen that without  
backstamping showing at what hour it  
arrived, there would be no way of tra-  
cing these delays.

The postal department in its effort  
to economize, seems to have attacked  
a tender place, hence it remains to be  
seen whether the business men of the  
large mail order houses will allow  
this temporary suspension of the back-  
stamping to continue in force without  
a strong protest. Nashville appears  
to have been one of the desirable cities  
in which to inaugurate this experi-  
ment which has been started in some  
of the large northern and eastern  
cities. A decided opposition to the ar-  
gument put up by the Assistant Post-  
master General, is being made by the  
business men, who argue that both the  
facing slip system, which is a record  
for the railway mail service, and the  
backstamping system, which is a re-  
cord for the local post office and a pro-  
tection to both, should be continued.  
One is as essential as the other. For  
in the United States mail we have  
two great divisions, the railway mail  
service and the local post office.  
Each must have protection, and the  
patrons must have theirs.

The following is taken from the re-  
port of the Postmaster General in his  
argument for the facing slip system  
against backstamping:

"In the post office of one of our  
large cities the record of errors  
traced to their source during the month  
of September last, while backstamping  
was in operation, showed a total of  
172, whereas the same office was able  
in the month of October with back-  
stamping suspended, to fix the respon-  
sibility of 2,478 errors, utilizing the  
facing slip in a manner just described.  
Similar experiences have been re-  
ported from other post-offices as a  
result of the suspension of backstamp-  
ing."

The above is a good showing for  
the facing slip argument but it does  
not detract from the merits of back-  
stamping. It does not show how many  
letters have been delayed in the local  
post-offices in this period, which could  
have been traced to direct negligence  
of some of the distributing clerks or  
letter carriers. Thus the burden of  
these delays rests with the railway  
mail service.

Another argument put forth by the  
Assistant Postmaster General against  
backstamping is as follows:—

While the backstamp is supposed to  
show approximately the time of a let-  
ter's receipt at the post office, it is  
never conclusive, for there may be  
delay in the office before the back-  
stamping occurs."

Those who have spent years in the  
service know that there is never a  
delay of more than thirty minutes  
or an hour at the most in backstamp-  
ing the mail after it has been received  
into the post office. Carriers have  
been "swung" until the mail could be  
backstamped and distributed. Hence  
it is held that the receiving stamp on  
the back of the letter, so far as the

government records are concerned, is  
conclusive evidence of receipt of the  
letter. The post master general goes  
further in this argument and says:—

"As a rule the time record of the  
backstamp is changed not oftener than  
every half hour, and therefore back-  
stamping, even if promptly done, can  
show a variance of nearly thirty min-  
utes from the true time."

This argument is easily offset by  
the fact that when mail arrives in the  
post office in rapid succession not less  
than thirty minutes apart, it is not  
absolutely necessary to retard the  
work, and delay the distribution by  
changing the backstamp, except when  
the period occupies over thirty min-  
utes. But invariably letters of impor-  
tance, like special delivery letters, are  
stamped as near the hour they are re-  
ceived as the dye in the backstamping  
machine will indicate. Hence the spe-  
cial delivery service would at least be  
protected in the continuance of the  
backstamping. This cannot be done if  
this custom of not backstamping is  
allowed to continue.

The Assistant Postmaster General  
continues:

"The usual custom in adjusting the  
time record of the backstamp is to  
set it thirty minutes ahead of the ac-  
tual hour."

To this a reply can be easily given.  
as it is learned that the backstamping  
machine is usually set between the  
time of the arrival of the train at the  
depot and the arrival of the mail at  
the post office, either of which would  
be good records.

He goes further in his argument and  
says:

"Recent investigation has developed  
the fact that in some offices the back-  
stamp is habitually set, not at the  
time when the mail arrives, but at the  
hour when it is the practice to begin  
delivery. In such cases the record  
conveyed by the backstamp is far  
from accurate and serves to deceive  
rather than to enlighten the public."

It is hardly necessary for business  
men who conduct some of the largest  
business establishments in the United  
States to expect to give reasonable ex-  
cuses to their patrons for delays in let-  
ters if there is no official record on the  
face or back of the letters to show  
the exact hour of their dispatch and  
arrival. It would appear that if the  
Assistant Postmaster General is going  
to economize in the service, it would  
be better for him to begin at another  
end that is of less importance to the  
large patrons of the mail service. In  
his last report, the Hon. Assistant  
Postmaster General does not show  
how important to a business firm the  
mail records are, especially of the re-  
ceipt of letters at post offices. If so,  
he would certainly not put forth an  
argument in favor of the Facing Slip,  
which only protects the railway serv-  
ice, as against backstamping, which  
not only protects the railway mail  
service, but protects the officials, em-  
ployees and addressee. It remains to  
be seen whether this experiment in  
vogue in some of the large cities will  
prove a success or failure.

**THE PASSING OF A USEFUL CITI-  
ZEN.—BROWN HIGHTOWER.**

In the death of Mr. Brown High-  
tower, Nashville, loses one of its old-  
est, most useful and best known citi-  
zens. He was one of the first colored  
men to begin a mercantile business in  
the city. For years he successfully  
conducted a junk store at 215 Fourth  
avenue, South. Mr. Hightower's  
health began failing last summer, but  
after having been confined to his bed  
for several weeks, he recovered suf-  
ficient strength to return to his place  
of business. His friends were hone-  
ful that the worst had passed, and  
that his life would be spared for se-  
veral years longer; but on Wednesday  
morning, January 23rd, he fell in the  
yard at his home on Lewis street. His  
wife rushed to him and found him  
suffering as from a stroke of paralysis.  
She and other friends assisted him  
into the house and put him to bed, no-  
tified his brother, Thomas Hightower,  
and called a physician. Everything  
possible was done to make the sufferer  
comfortable and to relieve his pains,  
but at noon his soul took its departure  
and winged its sainted flight up to  
the hills of light, there to rest forever  
in the bosom of its God.

Seldom in the history of Nashville  
have so many sorrowing friends gath-  
ered to do honor to the memory of  
the departed as assembled in the Sec-  
ond Baptist Church, Friday evening,  
Jan. 25th, to do honor to Mr. High-  
tower. His pastor, Rev. B. G. Taylor,  
got up out of his sick bed that he  
might be present at the funeral. The  
floral offerings were profuse and very  
expressive of sorrow for the dead and  
sympathy for the bereaved. The ros-  
trum was crowded with city pastors  
and other distinguished individuals.  
The officers of the church were the  
nail bearers. Miss Georgia Sanders  
read resolutions of condolence. The  
Sons' and Daughters' of Israel, the so-  
ciety of which Mr. Brown Hightower  
was a member, turned out in a body.  
The church choir was at its best; Rev.  
Preston Taylor had charge of the fun-  
eral, and he not only directed it with  
a masterly hand, but was of valuable  
service to the pastor in handling the  
large audience. The pastor, Rev. G.  
B. Taylor, took for his text Job 5:26:  
"Thou shalt come to thy grave in a

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Do Your Eyes Trouble You?  
Do You Need Glasses?

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TROUBLE WITH YOUR

EYES, EARS, NOSE  
or THROAT?

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full age," and proceeded to deliver the  
funeral eulogy. He paid a glowing  
tribute to Mr. Hightower as a busi-  
ness man, as a Christian, as an offi-  
cer of the church and as a friend.  
Rev. W. S. Ellington, pastor of the  
First Baptist Church, of which Mr.  
Thomas Hightower, a brother of the  
deceased, is a member, was asked to  
say a word. He said that he felt as if  
he were at the funeral of a near rela-  
tive, that he had lived just across the  
street from Mr. Hightower for three  
years and that he had learned to love  
him as a neighbor and a Christian. He  
assured the sorrowing wife and brother  
of the comfort of the Holy Spirit,  
the love of Christ, the goodness of  
God and the sympathy and prayers of  
hundreds of friends. Rev. Luke Mas-  
on, pastor of the Primitive Baptist  
Church, on Lewis street, was the last  
speaker. He said that he had known  
Mr. Hightower for thirty years or  
more, and that he had found him ever  
ready to help a friend and to sympa-  
thesize with a struggling neighbor. Rev.  
Mason was especially eloquent in his  
portrayal of the resurrection of the  
just and the eternal happiness of those  
who die in the Lord.

At the conclusion of these services,  
the body of the lamented dead was fol-  
lowed by the family and a large num-  
ber of friends to its final resting place  
in Mount Ararat.

A Paper by Miss Georgia A. Sanders.

Mr. Brown Hightower was a mem-  
ber and officer of Hopewell Lodge, No.  
2, Sons and Daughters of Israel. He  
was one of the chartered members  
who helped to organize this number  
five years ago. He was a good and  
faithful officer and would at all times  
respond very liberally to the financial  
needs of the lodge. He carried with  
him sunshine and laughter wherever  
he went, usually possessing a bright  
cheerful countenance. As soon as he  
would enter our Lodge room every one  
would begin to smile, and very soon  
the hall would be filled with laughter.  
He served the lodge very faithfully as  
Worthy Sentinel until his death. Oh,  
but how we shall miss him. No more  
shall we hear the fall of his footsteps;  
no more shall we hear those cheering  
words of consolation, for his voice is  
hushed in death, and his spirit has  
gone to the God who gave it; his soul  
is anchored in the haven of rest,  
where there is no sorrow, sickness,  
nor death. In his death the Sons and  
Daughters of Israel have lost a Chris-  
tian brother and a faithful officer.  
But we can only bow our heads in  
humble submission to God and say,  
"The Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh  
blessed be the name of the Lord."

**ANTI-CONSUMPTION LEAGUE.**

The Anti-consumption League met at  
the First Baptist Church with large at-  
tendance. After the object of the  
meeting was stated by the president,  
Dr. R. F. Boyd, many physicians ex-  
pressed themselves as to their inten-  
tions to do all in their power to push  
this work to success. Dr. Merrill,  
president of Fisk University, was pres-  
ent. He complimented this move and  
brought out many interesting points,  
and asked the physicians had they  
ever thought why it was that this  
dreaded disease seemed to be more  
prevalent among the boys than girls,  
as it seemed to be the rule in his  
school?

As the physicians are anxious to cre-  
ate an interest, by common consent  
of the league, the President was au-  
thorized to appoint physicians to  
speak at the various churches provid-  
ing it met the approval of the Minis-  
ters' League of the city. The follow-  
ing appointments were made for Sun-  
day, February 3:

St. Paul, Dr. J. H. Hale; Mt. Olive,  
Dr. F. A. Steward; Clark Memorial,  
Dr. R. F. Boyd; Spruce Street Baptist,  
Dr. A. M. Townsend; Little Bethel, Dr.  
H. T. Geeder; First Baptist, Dr. S. S.  
Caruthers; First Baptist, East Nash-  
ville, Dr. G. H. Bandy. The meeting  
adjourned to meet at St. John's A. M.  
E. Church, Thursday night, Feb. 7.

**PARADE  
BANNERS**

FOR LODGES.



PLATE 1.

We manufacture K. P. Lodge Banners  
as per illustration given above, at prices  
according to quality of materials and  
trimmings, ranging from \$50 to \$75; silk  
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embroidered bullion work from \$135 to  
\$260. Specifications furnished on banners  
at any price desired. :: :: ::

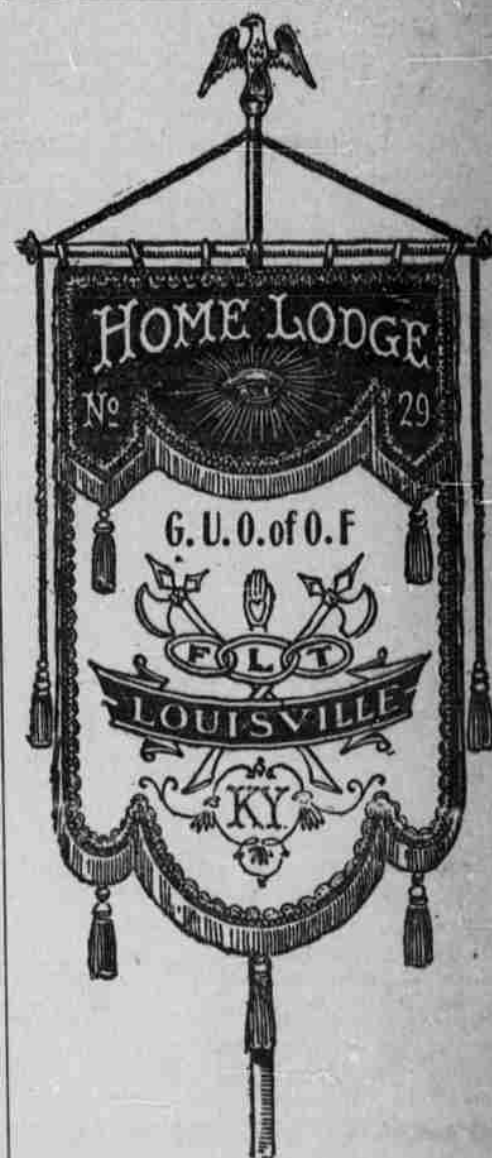


PLATE 2.

This shows a very popular design for  
G. U. O. of O. F. Lodges. Front made  
of white flag silk. Lambrequin, or Cur-  
tain, of red silk. Painted in gold leaf  
and oil colors, back of red banner sateen.  
Trimmed with imported gold lace, fringes,  
tassels, etc. Hardwood pole, wood cross-  
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